

## **Associated Students Western Washington University Federal Legislative Agenda 2007**

Antasia Parker, AS Vice President for Legislative Affairs  
Sasha Sleiman, AS Legislative Affairs Liaison

### **Legislative Mission:**

*Our mission, as the representative body for the Associated Students of Western Washington University, is to advocate measures that protect the institutional integrity that fosters a student's personal growth and prepares them to make a positive contribution in our society.*

### **Financial Aid**

*With regards to Financial Aid, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support any increase in financial aid, including but not limited to an increase in the maximum Pell Grant, increased funding for the CCAMPIS grant, and an increase in FAFSA funds.
- Oppose any effort to include financial aid, including scholarships, as taxable income.
- Oppose any attempts to withhold financial aid from students for extraneous reasons including, but not limited to, an individual's moral, political and/or religious beliefs, draft registration status, or performance of national service.
- Oppose any limit on the number of Pell Grant recipients.
- Support repeal of all legislation that denies or delays access to financial aid based upon convictions for drug-related offenses.

### **Student Loans**

*With regards to Student Loans, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support any lowering of interest rates on student loans.
- Support changes in the Stafford Loan Program that would reduce the interest rate and increase the grace period.

### **Independence**

*With regards to Independence, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support a definition of independent student status that would not include age.
- Oppose a waiting period for independence until after a student's parent or guardian stops claiming the student on their Federal tax return.
- Support a definition of independence that does not require the student to maintain a minimum level of income.

### **Student Control**

*With regards to Student Control, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support the right of student governments to determine the level of student fees and how these fees will be spent without interference from college administrations or governing boards.

- Support the creation and maintenance of comprehensive and standardized forms for students to evaluate teaching staff at institutions of higher education and support that such evaluations be easily accessible to students.

### **Student Privacy**

*With regards to Student Privacy, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Oppose any legislation that weakens the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including, but not limited to, disclosure of coursework, grades or financial information without consent.

### **Sustainability**

*With regards to Sustainability, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support legislation and all measures that increase funding to improve public transportation systems.

### **Internet Neutrality**

*With regards to Internet Neutrality, the Associated Students of Western Washington University:*

- Support any legislation to preserve and enforce internet neutrality.

Approved by A.S. Board of Directors  
March 14, 2007